

On page 2, before the first complete paragraph, please amend the section heading "BACKGROUND ART" to read as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 13, delete the first complete paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

JNS C13

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an exterior part of timepiece with an excellent appearance, constituted by a metal which has a smooth or specular surface free of "orange peel" even if the metal is subjected to surface hardening at a temperature which is close to the recrystallization temperature of the metal or below; and to provide a process for producing such an exterior part of a timepiece.

On page 13, amend the section heading "DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 24, amend the section heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING" to read as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 26, amend the section heading "BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

On page 67, please delete the section heading "EFFECT OF THE INVENTION".

On page 115, delete the second complete paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

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In this Example C4, not only planing of the upper surface of band pieces into a specular surface but also converting of metal crystal grains lying in the vicinity of band piece surface to the fibrous structure can be accomplished by grinding means with a

reduced grinding power, thereby enabling reducing the number of production process steps.

Therefore, the employment of this grinding enables the lowering of production cost.

On page 118, delete the third complete paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

In this Example C5, not only planing of the upper surface of band pieces into a specular surface but also converting of metal crystal grains lying in the vicinity of band piece surface to the fibrous structure can be accomplished by grinding means with a reduced grinding power, thereby enabling reducing the number of production process steps.

Therefore, the employment of this grinding enables the lowering of production cost.

On page 119, delete the first complete paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

Each of the inner and outer boundary dimensions of the thus forged ring members were adjusted to the desired one by a cutting operation.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the previous versions of claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 26, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57 and insert the amended versions of claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 26, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57 as follows:
(Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked-up versions of these claims are attached.)

4. (Amended) The decorative item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hard coating and the basis material at its surface exhibit respective tones which are different from each other.